

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 17 and leaves claims 2-6, 8, 13, 15, 16 and 18-20 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8 and 11-20.

Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, and Applicants' Japanese Representative Mr. Hiroshi Kawawo wish to thank Examiner Amrany and Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Sircus for the courtesy extended during the interview of February 7, 2007.

During such interview, the references of record were discussed particularly Oomori (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003306), Mizuno (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,891) and Yagisawa (U.S. Patent No. 7,047,354) along with proposed amendments to the claims which were agreed "would overcome the applied art". The present Amendment incorporates the proposed amendments presented and discussed during the interview and agreed as overcoming the applied art in each of the independent claims that were not previously allowed by the Examiner. Particularly, the proposed amendments were incorporated in independent claims 1 and 11.

Therefore, since claims 1 and 11, now recite the features agreed during the interview as overcoming the prior art of record, claims 1 and 11 and the claims which depend from claims 1 and 11, namely claims 2-8, 12-14 and 18-20 are now allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection claims 1-8, 11-14 and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Oomori in view of Mizuno and in view of Yagisawa is respectfully requested.

During the interview, the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 11 was discussed. It was noted during the interview that the claims in their current form are in fact definite and fully comply with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Particularly, it was noted during the interview by SPE Sircus that the recitations in the claims regarding Fibre Channel (FC) and SATA storage devices are fully defined and definite since these recitations are judged according to the FC and SATA disk drive standards as they exist at the time of filing the present application. It should be noted that as set forth in the previous responses the inherent protocols of the FC and SATA disk drive standards remain the same throughout all iterations since FC and SATA disk drives must be forwards and backwards compatible.

Therefore, in accordance with the comments by SPE Sircus during the interview the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 11 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Therefore, these objections are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Also Applicants note the Examiner's objection to the drawings as being informal. Formal Drawings will be submitted upon issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 8 of the Office Action that claims 15-17 are allowed.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies of the prior art utilized in the rejection of claims 1-8, 11-14 and 18-20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-8 and 11-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-8 and 11-20 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (1309.43669X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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